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House, a rooms and hall, Market street, nate Wheeling, cheap, \$1,280.

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ine, 5 rooms and hall, 16th st., \$2,700. des, 7 rooms and hall, 16th st., \$2,700. des, 7 rooms, 2th st., \$1.40. des, 2 rooms, 2th st., \$1.40. des, 2 rooms, and store room, Main case, 3 rooms, and store room, Main case, 10 rooms, 10 des, 1

p! tersm easy. use, 7 rooms, hal and large lot, 14th House, 7 rooms, and 6-roomed house in foliae, 7/rooms and 6-roomed house in rear; lot 20x120 ft., 18th st., £3,000. House, 7 rooms, brick, with hall, Jacob st. Centre Wheeling; cheap, £2,200. House, 6 rooms, brick, Eon st., 5th ward,

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The Weekly Intelligencer ONE YEAR.

COL. INGERSOLI

Preaches a Sermon to the Church Militant at Chicago.

IGNORANCE ALONE IS DARKNESS

and the World's Happiness Rests Upon the Education of the Children-Man ot Rise Above Nature, and Tem oral Happines is the Supreme Point of Man's Existence - A Masterly Oration Which Fleases the Ear, but Carries No Conviction to the Inner Sensibilities.

CHICAGO, April 12.—Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll spoke before the Militant church congregation to-day in response to an invitation extended by the pas-Rev. John Rusk. In his letter of invitation Rev. Mr. Rusk said, "The Militsnt church, which is organized for the purpose of bettering the condition of mankind, regardless of creed or lack of it, desires to extend to you an invitation to preach for us some Sunday morning in the near future on the subject of your views as to what the Christian church should do and how."

Colonel Ingersoll among other things explessed the following opinions:

"There is no darkness but ignorance."

There is no darkness but ignorance."
Every human being is a necessary product of conditions, and every one is born with defects for which he cannot be held responsible.

Life pursuing life, and, in its turn, pursued by death, presses to the snow line of the possible, and every form of life, of instinct, thought and action is fixed and determined by conditions, by countiess antecedent and coexisting facts. The present is the child, and the necessary child, of all the past and the mother of all the future.

Every human being longs to be happy, to satisfy the wants of the body with food, with roof and raiment, and to feed the hunger of the mind, according to his capacity, with love, wisdork philosophy, art and song.

Nature, generous and heartless, extravagant and miserly as she is, is our mother and our only teacher, and she is also the deceiver of men. Above her we cannot rise, below her we cannot fall. In ner we find the seed and soil of all that is good, of all that is evil. Nature originates, nourishes, preserves and destroys.

Every brain is a field where nature sows the seeds of thought, and the crop

Every brain is a field where nature sows the seeds of thought, and the crop depends upon the soil.

Every flower that gives its fragrance to the wandering air leaves lis influence on the soil of man. The wheel and swoop of the winged creatures of the air suggest the flowing lines of subtle art. The roar and murmur of the restless sea, the cataract's solemn chant, the thunder's voice, the happy babble of the brook, the whispering leaves, the thrilling notes of mating birds, the sighing winds, taught man to pour his heart in song and gave a voice to grief and hope, to love and death.

to pour his mart in song and gave a voice to grief and hope, to love and death.

In all that is, in mountain range and billowe plain, in winding stream and billowe plain, in winding stream and billowe plain, in calm and star, in snow and rain, in calm and storm, in might and day, in woods and vales, in all the colors of divided light, in all that fles and foats and swims, in all that fles and foats and swims, in all that moves, in all the forms and qualities of things, man found the seeds and symbols of his thoughts, and all that man has wrough becomes a pixt of nature's self, forming the lives of those to be. The marbles of the Greeks, like strains of music, suggest the perfect and teach the melody of life. The great peoms, paintings, inventions, theories and philosophies enistige and mold the mind of them. All that is natural. All is naturally produced. Beyond the horizon of the natural man cannot go.

Yet for many ages man in all directions has relied upon and sincerely believed in the existence of the supernatural. He did not believe in the uniformity of nature. He had no conception of cause and effect, of the indestructibility of force.

We in the United States believe that the authority to govern, the authority

special providence and divine interre-ence all belong to the supernatural and form no part of real religion. Every science rest on the natural, on demonstrated facts. So morality and religion must find their foundations in the necessary nature of things.

How Can We Reform the World? Man should cease to expect any aid from any supernatural source. By this from any supernatural source. By this time he should be satisfied that wor-ship has not created wealth and that prosperity is not the child of prayer. He should know that the supernatural has not succored the oppressed, clothed the naked, fed the hungry, shielded the in-nocent, staid the pestilence or freed the

slave.

Being satisfied that the supernatural does not exist, man should turn his entire attention to the affairsof this world,

threatenish in attree.

And, first of all, he should avoid waste-waste of energy, waste of wealth. Every good man, every good woman, should try to do away with war and stop the appeal to savage force.

force.

If we wish to do away with war, we must provide for the settlement of national differences by an international court. This court should be in perpetual sessions, its members should be selected by the various governments to be affected by its decisions, and, at the command and disposal of this court, the rest of Christendom being disarmed, there should be a military force sufficient to carry its judgment into effect. There should be no excuses, no

BEFORE I could get relief rible blood dis-

ease I had spent hundreds of dollars trying various remedies and physicians, none of which did me good. My finger nails came off and my hair came out, leaving me perfectly bald. I then went to

HOT SPRINGS

other Susiness for an army or a navy in the civilized world.

No man has imagination enough to paint the agonies, the horros and cruelties of war. Think of sending shot and shell crashing through the bodies of men! Think of the widows and orphans! Think of the widows and orphans! Think of the mained, the mutilated, the mangied!

For many centuries the wealth of the powers. In our own country the property dedicated to this purpose is worth at least \$1,000,000,000. The interest on this sum is \$60,000,000 a year, and the cont of employing persons whose business it is to seek the aid of the supernatural and to maintain the property is certainly as much.

For this vast amount of money the returns are remarkably small. The good accomplished does not appear to be great. No one wishes to destroy churches or church orsanizations. The only destre is that they shall accomplish substantial good for the world. In many of our small towns—lowns of \$,000 or 4,000 people—will be found four or five churches are founded upon immaterial differences. And it must be admitted that all the arguments on all sides of these differences have been presented countiess millions of times. Upon these subjects nothing new is produced or anticipated, and yet the discussion is maintained by the repetition of the old arguments.

His Model Church.

Now it seems to me that it would be far better for the people of a town having a population of 4,000 or 5,000 to

far better for the people of a town having a population of 4,000 or 5,000 to having a population of 4,000 or 5,000 to have one church, and the edifice should be of use not only on Sunday, but on every day of the week. In this building should be the club house of the people, where they could find the principal newspapers and periodicals of the world. Its auditorium should be like a theatre. Plays should be presented by home talent, an orchestra formed, music cultivated. The people should meet there at any time they desire. The women could carry their knitting and sewing, and connected with it should be rooms for the playing of games, billiards, cards and chess. Everything should be made as agreeable as possible. The citizens should take pide in this building. They should adorn its niches with statues and its walls with pictures. It should be the intellectual center. They should employ a gentleman of ability, possibly of genius, to address them on Stundays on subjects that would be real interest, of real importance. They could say to this minister: "We are engaged in business during

that would be of real interest, or the importance. They could say to this minister:

"We are engaged in business during the week. While we are working at our trades and professions we want you to study, and on Sundays tell us what you have found out."

Let such a minister take for a series of sermons the history, the philosophy of the art and the genius of the Greeks. Let him tell of the wondrous metaphysics, myths and religions of India and Egypt. Let him make his congregation conversant with the philosophies of the world, with the great thinkers, the great poets, the great artists, the great actors, the captains of industry, the soldlers of progress. Let them have a Sunday school in which the children shall be made acquainted with the facts of nature, with botany, entomology, something of geology and astronomy.

The truth is that people are tired of the old theories. They have lost confidence in the miraculous, in the supernatural, and they have ceased to take interest in "facts" that they do not quite believe.

Homes For All.

The home is the unit of the nation. The more homes the broader the foun dation of the nation and the more se-

cure.

Everything that is possible should be done to keep this from being a nation of tenants. The men who cultivate the earth should own it. Something has already been done in our country in that direction, and probably in every state there is a homestead exemption. This exemption has thus far done no harm to, the creditor class. When we imprisoned people for debt, debts were as insecure, to say the least, as now. By the homestead laws a home of a certain value or of a certain extent is exempt from forced levy or sake, and these laws have done great good. Undoubtedly they have trobled the homes of the nation.

exempt from forced levy or sale, and these laws have done streat good. Undoubtedly they have trebled the homes of the nation.

I wish to go a step farther. I want, if possible, to get the people out of tenements, out of the gutters of degredation, to homes where there can be privacy, where these people can feel that they are in partnership with nature; that they have an interest in good government. I would exempt a homestead of a reasonable value say 32,000 or 33,000, not only from sale under execution, but from sale for taxes of every description. These homes should be absolutely exempt. They should belong to the family, so that every mother should feel that the roof above her head was hers; that her house was her castle, and that in its possession she could not be disturbed, even by the astlon. Every state should fix the smount of land that could be owned by an individual, not liable to be taken from him for the purpose of giving a home to another, and when any man owned more acres than the law allowed, and another should ask to purchase them, and he should refuse, I would have the law so that the person wishing to purchase could file his petition in court, and upon the amount being paid, found should vest absolutely in the petitioner. There is another question in which I take great interest, and it ought, in my judgment, to be answered by the intelligence and kindness of our century. Without doubt the contract of marriage is the most important of all institutions. Of course the ceremony of marriage is the most important of all institutions. Of course the ceremony of marriage is the most important of all institutions. Of course the ceremony of marriage is not the real marriage; that it should be public; that records should be kept. Besides the ceremony of marriage is not the real marriage; that it should be public; that records should be kept. Besides the ceremony of marriage is not the real marriage; that it should be public; that records should be kept. Besides the ceremony of marriage is not the real marri

ceremony says to all the world that those who marry are in love with each other.

Millions of people imagine that the married are joined together by some supernatural power, and that they should remain together, or at least married, during life. It all who have been married were joined together by the supernatural, we must admit that the supernatural is not infinitely wise. After all, marriage is a contract, and the parties to the contract are bound to keep its provisions, and neither should be released from such a contract unless in some way the interests of society are involved. I would have the law so that any husband could obtain a divorce when the wife had persistently and flagrantly violated the contract, such divorce to be granted on equitable terms. I would give the wife a divorce if she requested it, if she wanted it.

I make a difference between granting divorce to a man and to a woman, and for this reason: A woman dowers her husband with her youth and beauty. He should not be allowed to desert her because she has grown wrinkled and old. Her capital is gone, her prospects in life lessened, while, on the contrary, he may be far better able to succeed than when he married her. As a rule, the man can take care of himself, and, as a rule, the woman needs help. So I would not allow him to cast her off unless she had flagrantly violated the contract. But for the sake of the community, and especially for the sakes.

The Laber Question.

there is of value in the world is the product of labor. The labering man pays all the expenses. No matter whether taxes are laid on inxuries or on the necessaries of life, labor pays every yent. So we must remember that, day by day, labor is becoming intelligent. So I believe the employer is gradually becoming civilized, gradually becoming civilized, gradually becoming civilized, gradually becoming intelligent. So independent of their millions to what they regarded as objects of charity or for the interests of education.

All our sympathies should be with the men who work, who toll, for the women who labor for themselves and children, because we know that labor is the foundation of all and that those who labor are the caryatides that support the structure and gilttering dome of civilization and progress.

Educate the Children.

Every child should be taught to be self supporting and every one should be taught to avoid being a burden on oth-

self supporting and every one should be taught to avoid being a burden on others as it would should be taught that the useful are the honorable and that they who live on the labor of others are the enemies of society. Every child should be taught that neeful work is worship and that intelligent labor is the highest form of prayer.

Nothing should be taught in any school that the teacher does not know. Bellefs, superstitions, theories, should not be treated like demonstrated fants. The child should be taught to investigate, not to believe. Too smuch doubt is better than too much credulity. So children should be taught that it is their duty to think for themselves, to understand and, if possible, to know. Real education is the hope of the fucivilization of the heart, will drive want and crime from the world. The school-house is the real cathedral and science the only possible savior of the human race. Education, real education, is the friend of honesty, of morality, of temperance.

So all should be taught that the high-

race. Education, real education, is the friend of honesty, of morality, of temperance.

So all should be taught that the highest ambition is to be happy and to add to the well being of others; that place and power are not necessary to success; that the desire to acquire great wealth is a kind of insanity. They should be taught that it is a waste of energy, a waste of thought, a waste of ellet to acquire what you do not need and what you do not really use for the benefit of yourself or others.

Man will be civilized when the passons are dominated by the intellectual, when reason occupies the throne and when the hot blood of passion no longer rises in successful revolt.

To civilize the world, to hasten the coming of the golden dawn of the perfect day, we must educate the children; we must commance at the cradle, at the lago of the loving mother.

We Must Work and Walt.

The reforms that I have mentioned

The reforms that I have mentioned cannot be accomplished in a day, possibly not for many centuries, and in the

cannot be accomplished in a day, possibly not for many centuries, and in the meantime there is much crime, much poverty, much want and consequently something must be done now.

Let each human being within the limits of the possible be self supporting; let every one take intelligent thought for the morrow, and if a human being supports himself and acquires a surplus let him use a part of that surplus for the unfortunate, and let each one to the extent of his ability help his fellow men. Let him do what he can in the circle of his own acquaintance to rescue the fallen, to help those who are trying to help themselves, to give work to the dide. Let him distribute kind words, words of wisdom, of cheerfulness and hope. In other words, let every human being do all the good he can and let him bind up the wounds of his fellow creatures and at the same time put forth every effort to hasten the coming of a better day.

This, in my judgment, is real religion. To do all the good you can is to be a saint in the highest and in the noblest sense. To do all the good you can this is to be really and truly spiritual. To relieve suffering, to put the star of hope in the midnight of despair—this is true holiness. This is the religion of science. The old creeds are too narrow; they are not for the world in which we live. The old dogmas lack breadth and tenderness; they are too cruel, too merciless, too savage. We are growing grander and nobler. The firmament initial with suns is the dome of the real cathedral. The interpreters of nature are the true and only priests. In the great creed are all the truths that lips have uttered and in the real littany will be found all the catacles and aspirations of the soul, all that art has done. In the real choir is all that art has done. In the real endince, is adorned and gorified with all that art has done. In the real choir is all that the fall lips have uttered and in the real chilling must of the world and in the starlit aisles have been, and are, the grandest souls of every land and clime.

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